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HOUSE RESOLUTION 288
By Brooks

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of legendary high school and college coach, Dorsey Sims.

WHEREAS, it was with profound sadness and a tremendous, overpowering sense of loss that the basketball community and the members of the Tennessee General Assembly learned of the death of legendary coach Dorsey Sims, an outstanding former Memphis Melrose High School coach and an former assistant coach at the University of Memphis; and

WHEREAS, the much admired and highly respected Coach Sims was a native of Haskell, Oklahoma, and a 1955 graduate of Tennessee State University; and

WHEREAS, his brilliant high school coaching career included more than 650 victories; and

WHEREAS, this highly competitive coach won state titles with Melrose, in 1978 and 1983, and with Chattanooga Riverside High School, in 1968 and 1969; and

WHEREAS, Coach Sims was an important factor in the success of the University of Memphis basketball team during his illustrious tenure as an assistant coach under Coach Larry Finch from 1986-1994; and

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WHEREAS, his former players have attested to his strong motivational skills as a coach;
and

WHEREAS, young men who have played under his adroit leadership have matured to become very successful, both on the basketball court and in life; and

WHEREAS, among his numerous commendations were: being selected the National High School Athletic Coach of the Year in 1989 and his receipt of a Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Distinguished Service Award; and

WHEREAS, Tony Madlock, who played for Coach Sims both at Melrose and the University of Memphis and is presently an assistant coach at Arkansas State, paid tribute to his beloved mentor by stating: "He always tried to do the right thing. He was a disciplinarian. On the court and off, he treated us like his kids"; and

WHEREAS, Tim Morgan, who coached against him at the high school level and worked with him at the University of Memphis, commented: "It was a very enjoyable experience coaching with him at the university. "He didn't like losing but after losing it was "Let's make it better"; and

WHEREAS, Shelby State Community College basketball coach Verties Sails remembered Coach Sims by fondly stating: "He did things differently than the way I did them, but it came out the same thing: working with young folks and getting them to do the best they could do"; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we pause to honor the memory of this cherished coach, whose legacy has embraced the noble virtues of hard work, competence, diligence, and dedication; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we honor the memory of Coach Dorsey Sims, reflecting on his many contributions to the sport of basketball and to the Shelby County community, and express our condolences to his family and associates.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

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